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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 61st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MUNTASSER (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 149: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROTECTION FORCE (A/46/236/Add.1, A/46/893)

1. Mr. THORNBURGH (Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) (A/46/236/Add.1), said that section I of the report reviewed the developments preceding the adoption of the mandate to deploy a protection force in Yugoslavia. Initial measures taken by the Secretary-General in response to the urgency of the situation were indicated in section II. Cost estimates for UNPROFOR, detailed in annexes I and II, amounted to $616,280,000 for the period 12 January 1992-14 April 1993 and took into account voluntary contributions in kind from the host Government. In paragraph 14, the Secretary-General appealed for voluntary contributions for the emplacement and continuing operation of UNPROFOR.

2. It was hoped that the recommended appropriation of $250 million for UNPROFOR costs through October 1992 would be sufficient to cover both start-up and maintenance costs for the first six months of operation. Should additional funds be required, the matter would be referred again to the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly.

3. The pattern of payments for new peace-keeping operations since 1988 was that three months after sending assessment letters to Member States, an average 36 per cent of assessments had actually been collected, with an average of only 53 per cent after six months. The successful implementation of peace-keeping operations depended largely on the support of Member States. He gave his assurance of the Secretariat's full commitment to carrying out that vital task as effectively as possible.

4. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report (A/46/893), said that the Secretary-General's original proposals for UNPROFOR provided for a troop strength of 10,400, 2,740 military logistics personnel, 100 military observers, and 528 civilian police monitors. The civilian staff establishment of 542 would consist of 61 Professional staff, 60 Field Service staff, 149 General Service staff and 272 local employees. The initial full cost estimate was $620.7 million gross, or $616.3 million net. Cost estimates were $4.8 million gross for the military liaison mission from 12 January to 14 April 1992, $4.6 million gross for the military and civilian advance party of 431 personnel from 1 March to 14 April 1992, and $611,268,000 gross for the Force over the 12 months from 15 April 1992 to 14 April 1993.

5. The Advisory Committee had met in special session to carry out a detailed examination of estimates for the Force. In his reports, the Secretary-General had stressed the urgency of deploying the Force and had stated that it was his intention to report to the Security Council pursuant to resolution 743 (1992) prior to full deployment of the Force.

(Mr. Mselle)

6. The Advisory Committee had pointed out a number of uncertainties regarding the estimates and the assumptions on which they were based. For example, the Committee had been informed of a slight delay in the deployment of the advance party, and it was envisaged that phased deployment of the full Force would not be completed until the end of April 1992. It had indicated many areas where savings could be realized, covering such items as accommodation, transport, communications, air operations and the civilian establishment. For example, the initial provision of $122 million for rental, maintenance and acquisition of premises was based on assumptions which might change as experience was gained in deploying and accommodating the Force on the ground. Those estimates would also be affected considerably when all contributions by the parties in the area of operations and voluntary contributions from other sources were fully verified, evaluated and taken into account.

7. The Secretary-General had requested that, for the time being, one half of the costs for UNPROFOR should be appropriated and assessed. After careful deliberation, the Advisory Committee had decided to recommend that $250 million net should be appropriated and assessed on Member States. It was the Committee's view, however, that any financial authorization which was given to the Secretary-General must be sufficient to allow him to gain experience and report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. Accordingly, in paragraph 30 of its report, the Advisory Committee stated its view that $250 million net should be adequate until the Secretary-General submitted such additional requirements as might be necessary for the period beyond October 1992. The report to be submitted by the Secretary-General should be made available before the start of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly and should include detailed information on UNPROFOR performance up to that time.

8. The administrative and financial implications of such actions the Security Council might take with respect to the implementation plan called for in its resolution 743 (1992) could be reflected in the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, or, if necessary, brought to the attention of the the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly prior to deployment of the full Force.

9. Lastly, the Advisory Committee had made a number of comments and recommendations regarding transparency of peace-keeping estimates, and had requested that the views of the Committee be taken fully into account in future reports of the Secretary-General.

10. Mr. SILOVIC (Yugoslavia) noted with satisfaction the determination of the Security Council to preserve the cease-fire in Yugoslavia and to create the necessary conditions for negotiations between the parties with the aim of achieving a comprehensive political solution. United Nations forces were being deployed at the request of and with the agreement of all parties in Yugoslavia, and they stood ready to contribute within their capabilities

(Mr. Silovic, Yugoslavia)

towards the costs of the operation. The Yugoslav Government had already advanced some specific proposals, mentioned in the annex to the Secretary-General's report.

11. He noted the Advisory Committee's misgivings with regard to the costs of mine-clearing operations. The Secretary-General had specifically referred to the obligation of all Yugoslav parties to clear mines when withdrawing from the United Nations protected areas. His Government fully appreciated the Secretariat's concern for the safety of the operation and therefore believed that, for security reasons, the mine-clearing costs must be included in the budget.

12. Immediate full deployment of the United Nations forces was necessary if the cease-fire agreed upon in Sarajevo on 2 January 1992 was to hold and be further consolidated as a precondition for the resumption of political dialogue. He urged the Committee to decide in favour of that action.

13. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) emphasized the importance of careful scrutiny of the budgetary and technical aspects of such a major peace-keeping operation, especially in the early stages of its existence. His delegation agreed with the Advisory Committee's recommendations with regard to areas where costs could be reduced and its interpretation of the relevant Security Council resolutions as they related to the organizational aspects of the operation budget.

14. The Advisory Committee's recommendations in paragraph 30 of its report (A/46/893) were based on a delicate balance of the views expressed by members and provided a sufficient basis for further consultations on the overall appropriation for the operation.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.